

MEMORANDUM

November 12, 2006

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Chris Carlson, Senior Fisheries Biologist

SUBJECT: Vernita Bar Redd Survey, November 12, 2006

Discussion: On Sunday, November 12, 2006 the fifth Vernita Bar ground redd count was conducted to assist in the evaluation of special Hanford Reach fish spawning flows. The monitoring team representatives consisted of Paul Hoffarth (WDFW) and Chris Carlson (GCPUD). Flows from Priest Rapids Dam at Vernita Bar were about 48 kcfs. Results of this survey are provided in the table below.

<u>Transect</u>	----- Redd Count by Flow Level (kcfs) -----						Total
	<u>(36 – 50)</u>	<u>(50 – 55)</u>	<u>(55 – 60)</u>	<u>(60 – 65)</u>	<u>(65 – 70)</u>	<u>(Above 70)</u>	<u>Number Of Redds</u>
Above A	--	12	5	1	0	0	18
A – AB	--	11	4	0	0	0	15
AB – B	--	14	6	3	3	1	27
Below B	--	17	12	4	1	2	36
C	--	7	1	0	0	0	8
Totals	--	61	28	8	4	3	104

No redd counts were taken within the 36-50 kcfs elevations.

Initiation of spawning for the zone below 36 kcfs is October 25, for the zones between 36 – 50 kcfs and above 50 kcfs is November 1, 2006.

During last year's November 13 redd count; no redd count occurred between the 36–50 kcfs flow elevations, 145 redds were counted between 50-55 kcfs, 97 between 55-60 kcfs, 80 between 60-65 kcfs, 39 between 65-70 and 50 redd above the 70 kcfs elevation.

The next redd count will occur on November 19, 2006 at which time the 2006-2007 Critical Flow Elevation will be determined. This determination may be postponed to November 26 if the Monitoring Team concludes that significant spawning is still occurring. Required USGS gauging station flow will be 50 kcfs.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

(VBReddCountM.doc)

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